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Carl Byron James, assistant professor of biology in Adelbert College and the College for Women, is also absent upon leave for the year.

DR. EUGEN OBERHUMMER, professor of historical and political geography in the University of Vienna, will deliver three lectures at the Johns Hopkins University on November 14, 15 and 16. His subjects are: "Developments and Methods of the Geography of Man," "Races and Peoples of Europe," "Principal Geographical Features of Austria and Hungary."

ON October 29 Professor S. F. Acree, of the Johns Hopkins University, delivered a lecture before the Chemists' Club of Washington, D. C., on the progress of the researches conducted in his laboratory. The subjects discussed were tautomerism, dilatometry, catalysis, reactions of alkyl halides and the theory of oxidation and reduction. The discussion was followed by a smoker.

DR. A. C. ABBOTT, professor of hygiene and bacteriology, in the University of Pennsylvania, gave two lectures at the University of Maryland, on November 9 and 10. The subjects were: "The Function of the Municipality in Public Preventive Medicine" and "The Interdependence between the Laboratory and the Clinical Investigators."

MR. HENRY S. BRYANT, president of the Geographical Society of Philadelphia, gave the annual address on November 2, his subject being "The Land of the Golden Dragon, or Travels in French Indo-China."

WILLIAM HENRY BREWER, professor emeritus of agriculture in the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University, for many years a prominent figure in American science, died on November 2, at the age of eighty-two years.

ARTHUR ERWIN BROWN, secretary of the Zoological Society of Philadelphia and active head of the Zoological Garden, the author of contributions to herpetology and mammalogy, died on November 1, at the age of sixty years.

MONUMENTS to Professor Guzenbaur and Professor Nothnagel, two eminent professors of medicine at the University of Vienna, have been unveiled.

M. HENRI DUNANT, of Geneva, founder of the Red Cross Society, died on October 30, at Hilden, Switzerland, aged 82 years.

PROFESSOR FARABOEUF, professor of anatomy at Paris, has died at the age of sixty-nine years.

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#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE General Education Board has made conditional appropriations amounting to \$725,000, distributed as follows: Baylor University, Waco, Tex., \$200,000; Trinity College, Durham, N. C., \$150,000; University of Chattanooga, Tenn., \$150,000; Meredith College, Raleigh, N. C., \$50,000; Wesleyan Female College, Macon, Ga., \$100,000, and Amherst College, Amherst, Mass., \$75,000.

WOOSTER UNIVERSITY has received \$100,000 from Mrs. J. S. Kennedy, of New York, for the erection of a dormitory for men.

THE Academy of the University of Illinois, which was established in 1876, is to be abandoned. In discontinuing the academy the board of trustees have in mind a plan to establish a model high school at the university in connection with the school of education.

THE foundation-stone of new engineering laboratories for Liverpool University was laid October 22 by Mr. T. Fenwick Harrison. The cost of erection of the building will be met by a fund of £35,000, which has been provided by Mr. Fenwick Harrison, Mr. J. W. Hughes and Mr. Heath Harrison.

IN the "School of Higher Studies" of the National University of Mexico, recently founded, professors are being engaged to give courses lasting each three months. Such an appointee has the title professor and is to reside at Mexico City each year for three months during his term of office. Among those already appointed on these terms are Professor Richet (Paris, physiology), Capitan (Paris, ethnology), Boas (New York, anthropology), Rowe (Philadelphia, political science), Reiche (Germany, botany), Baldwin (Baltimore, philosophy and social science). Professor Baldwin opened the series with a course entitled "The Individual and Society"

which is to continue until January, 1911, and to be followed by a "seminary" course in 1911-12. Professor Boas begins in November, 1910, Professor Richet in January, 1911, etc. The qualifications for enrolment are graduation from a university school (college) and high honors in subjects related to that to be pursued. The first course given under these restrictions had an enrolment of fifty-five. It is expected that these professors will devote their courses to research as well as to instruction.

At the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Arthur Holmes and Dr. F. M. Urban have been advanced to assistant professorships and Mr. S. F. Fernberger to an instructorship in psychology.

At Western Reserve University, Mr. William L. Dolley has been appointed instructor in biology, and Mr. Edward H. Sensel instructor in chemistry.

MR. A. E. SHIPLEY, F.R.S., fellow and tutor of Christ's College, Cambridge University, has been elected master of the college in succession to the late Dr. John Peile.

THE dedication exercises for the new building for entomology, zoology and geology at the Massachusetts Agricultural College will be held Friday, November 11. Dr. L. O. Howard, of Washington, will give the dedicatory address. The building is 100 by 120 feet, of colonial style and of the letter H design. It is made of brick, steel and concrete, thus giving a fire-resisting structure. It was built and equipped at a cost of about \$95,000. In the basement are spacious laboratories for geology and mineralogy and a rock museum; also a laboratory for insecticide analysis and two rooms for spraying apparatus. On the first floor are two large laboratories for zoology and the main floor of the zoological museum; also two rooms and an office for the experimental work in entomology with a greenhouse attached and three offices for the department of zoology and geology. On the third floor are two large laboratories for entomology, an insect collection room, a small lecture room and the library; also a laboratory for advanced zoology, the gallery of the zoological museum

and two offices for the department of entomology. In the main part of the building there is also a large amphitheater lecture hall. Professor H. T. Fernald is at the head of the department of entomology and Professor C. E. Gordon at the head of the department of zoology and geology.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE LOCUS OF A MOVING POINT WHEN THE QUOTIENT OF ITS DISTANCES FROM TWO FIXED POINTS IS CONSTANT

REFERRING to the digest of a paper by Mr. John F. Lanneau under the above-mentioned title, in SCIENCE, No. 806, it may be of interest to state that the locus is of importance in the theory of electric cables and transmission lines. The circles represent the directions of magnetic lines of force, created by a current through a loop consisting of two parallel wires. The orthogonal system of circles corresponds to electrostatic stresses between the wires. Or else, the first system determines equipotential electrostatic surfaces, while the second system gives surfaces of equal electromagnetic potential.

When telephone wires run parallel to a power transmission line it is of importance to place each telephone loop in such a position with respect to the power line, as to have a minimum of inductive disturbance, that is to say, a minimum of roaring in the telephone. For this purpose it is convenient to draw the circles in question, representing magnetic lines of force around the power transmission line. The two wires of the telephone line must lie on the same circle. In the case of a three-phase line the same is split, for the purposes of computation, into two single-phase lines, and circles are drawn for each loop separately. The telephone wires are located so as to lie approximately on some one circle belonging to each single-phase loop.

The two fixed points in Mr. Lanneau's problem are *inverse* points with respect to the system of circles; this is according to a well-known theorem in elementary geometry. They do not coincide with the centers of the wires in the electrical problem. The cross-sections